

Appl. No. 10/808,840
Amdt. dated March 2, 2006
Reply to Office Action of November 3, 2005

PATENT

REMARKS

Claims 9-15 have been examined. Claims 9, 13 and 14 have been examined. Claim 12 has been canceled. Applicant gratefully acknowledges the allowance of claim 15 and the indicated allowability of claims 12 and 13. Reconsideration of the claims, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Claim rejections – 35 USC 103

Claims 9-11 and 14 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Smith in view of Schmelzer. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

However, in order to expedite prosecution, claim 9 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 12 which was indicated to be allowable. Hence, the rejection of claims 9-11 and 13 is rendered moot. Claim 14 has been amended to include a limitation from claim 11 where the holding region is semi-spherical. Since this limitation is not found in Smith or Schmelzer, claim 14 as amended is also distinguishable and in condition for allowance.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the allowance of claim 15 and the indicated allowability of claims 12 and 13. As previously described, the limitations of claim 12 has been incorporated into claim 9.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

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If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 303-571-4000.

Respectfully submitted,

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